

ER 6-2098-A

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I appreciate your note of 29 October,
enclosing a copy of a recent letter you wrote.

It is good to know that we have a friend
such as yourself, and I thank you for your
kind thoughts.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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Date 10/29/54

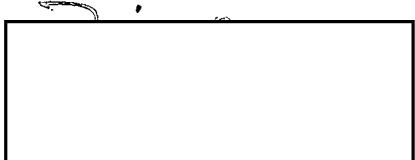


To Mr. Sheller

"O would some power
the Giftie gie us
To see ourselves
As others see us!"

Best

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attached
6-2098

October 29, 1954

Mr. Westbrook Pegler
King Features Syndicate
235 East 45th Street
New York, New York

Dear Peg:

In your recent article dealing with General Deolittle's report on the administration of the Central Intelligence Agency, that part of the report which was made public, you made two observations which I would like to comment upon.

The first of these concerned the oft repeated tale of the failure of intelligence in December, 1944 which resulted in the battle of the Bulge. Time and again I have read of the "Failure of Intelligence" at that crucial point. The truth is, Peg, intelligence did not fail. I was there and I know that combat intelligence of the First, Ninth, and Third U. S. Armies all had the situation correctly evaluated and knew exactly where and in what strength the attack would occur. If you would like to verify this, I can imagine that the combat intelligence reports of the G-2 of each of those armies during the period 1 December - 15 December would be of extreme interest. They are probably still highly classified and in the hands of the Army Historian but if an effort were to be made they might possibly be de-classified for publication. They would be most revealing. The Etouze war room in London, England was fully informed and had the information on their map. If London knew about it, I am sure that the Twelfth Army group in Verdun and Supreme Headquarters in Versailles also had the story. For those of us who froze and damn near died in the subsequent action it comes as bitter gall to read that we "failed".

Another subject that comes to mind in this connection is the whole reason for the existence of such a group as the Central Intelligence Agency. Historically, every great nation had had an intelligence service which acted, in effect, as a first line of defense. The Austrian intelligence, under the empire was excellent as was that of Russia under the czars. British intelligence, one of the oldest in point of continuous service has served the empire well for more than two hundred years. Intelligence, by its very nature, must work in anonymity. Its services which I need not go into here are many and while it has had its fair share of incompetence, it has had more than its share of dedicated patriots whose services to their country and their flag

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was and is not inspired by personal or monetary considerations.

I do not doubt that in any organizations such as CIA which has grown up so rapidly and under such dramatic conditions as the postwar period has brought about does contain many flaws of organization. In hasty recruitment there are bound to be people who should not have been hired and staffs created whose work would not bear too careful examination. On the other hand the very nature of our times when national death might strike suddenly and without warning makes it mandatory that we have an intelligence service second to none. That is a costly venture, just as the building of an aircraft carrier is a costly venture. To discuss the organization or the expenditure of funds willy-nilly would defeat the whole purpose of such an organization. I am sure that certain controls are exercised on Capitol Hill which guarantee some reasonable assurance that CIA is not too wasteful. Further, there is a Chief of that organization with demonstrated competence in the field of intelligence and unquestioned loyalty. If anybody is able to build a permanent, professional intelligence service I think he can. Why don't you stop in and have a talk with him the next time you are in Washington?

Mind you, I know nothing whatever about CIA. I only know that after having been a professional intelligence officer for a good many years, trained at very considerable expense by my government, I sleep better at night by knowing that such an organization is in existence. I have never been associated with it and there may be people in it whom I know would be better off doing something else. But there are also people in it in whom I have complete confidence and whom I know to be solid, dedicated patriots. I believe that it will be eventually the kind of an organization which you want and which I want but we will probably never know it because its very degree of efficiency depends on its passion for silence.

With very best regards.

Sincerely,

WPH:jk

[Redacted]

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